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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Thailand: draft resolution**

Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009, 66/206 of 22 December 2011, 69/225 of 19 December 2014 and 70/201 of 22 December 2015, as well as its resolutions 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and 67/215 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to declare 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa

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** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[2]

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[3] and of Agenda 21,[4] and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome documents of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",[7] and the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,[8]

Taking full account of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9]

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment, trade and sustained financing,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

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[1] Resolution 60/1.

[2] Resolution 65/1.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[8] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

[9] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Highlighting the importance of the empowerment of developing countries as the way to achieve universal access through the rapid expansion of affordable sustainable energy worldwide,

Deeply concerned that 2.7 billion people in developing countries, especially in rural areas, rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that 1.3 billion people are without access to electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

Emphasizing the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of environmentally sound technology on concessional and preferential terms, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the provision of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and the efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Taking note of multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as Sustainable Energy For All, that can complement the objectives of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

Noting with appreciation the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which facilitates the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Stressing also the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,[10] calls for the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives as defined in the global plan of action for the Decade, as described in a previous report of the Secretary-General on the topic,[11] and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy;[12]

2. *Also takes note* of the International Renewable Energy Agency's work programme and budget for 2016-2017, and encourages the Agency to continue to support its members in the achievement of their renewable energy objectives;

3. *Emphasizes* that universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all underpins poverty eradication and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as underscored in Sustainable Development Goal 7;

[10] A/71/320.
[11] See A/69/395, sect. III.
[12] A/71/220.

4. *Also emphasizes* the need to take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities and the specific needs and constraints of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in improving access to energy services;

5. *Stresses* the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy mix, as well as the rate of improvement in energy efficiency, as an important contribution to achieving universal access to sustainable modern energy services, and recognizes that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are prioritized according to their specific challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix;

6. *Emphasizes* that improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and promoting cleaner and energy-efficient technologies are important for sustainable development, and also emphasizes the importance of promoting energy conservation, developing energy-saving technologies and products and establishing effective mechanisms to improve resource efficiency;

7. *Also emphasizes* the necessity of establishing a modernized energy system that is clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient so as to promote sustainable energy;

8. *Underscores* the importance of access to cleaner and more efficient cooking and heating, and calls for the creation of an enabling environment at the national and international levels for the promotion of the usage of cleaner and more efficient cooking and heating in all countries, in particular developing countries;

9. *Emphasizes* the potential of sustainable energy use to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, notes that climate change can also threaten access to and the supply of energy, in particular as regards sources of renewable energy such as hydropower, among others while recognizing that increasing the deployment of renewable energy is a component of many countries' nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] and urges effective and timely support for the full implementation of those contributions, as applicable;

10. *Welcomes* the significant cost reductions associated with renewable energy, and emphasizes that large-scale deployment of technologies has been uneven and requires sufficient means of implementation to realize the technologies' potential, along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

11. *Reiterates* its call upon all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to take further actions to provide financial resources to support efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, noting the potential catalytic effect of concessional finance and taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the

attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand renewable energy deployment and development, including beyond urban areas;

12. *Calls upon* Governments of developed countries to take further action to mobilize the provision of technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms and the diffusion of new and existing environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda[13] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[5] and highlights the importance of integrating sustainable energy in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;

13. *Emphasizes* the catalytic effect of capacity-building and technical assistance on sustainable energy deployment, and calls for greater efforts to ensure that Governments from developing countries and relevant stakeholders are able to plan, finance, implement and monitor sustainable energy projects to further strengthen their national institutions and capacities;

14. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

15. *Recognizes* that sustainable energy access and deployment can both improve and be accelerated by gender equality and women's empowerment, and calls upon Governments, the United Nations development system and other stakeholders to increase educational and capacity-building programmes for women in the sector, to promote women's participation in the design and implementation of energy policies and programmes and to mainstream a gender perspective in such policies and programmes;

16. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

17. *Calls for* ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, as such services are fundamental for supporting poverty eradication, human dignity, quality of life, economic opportunity, the combating of inequality, the promotion of health and the prevention of morbidity and mortality, access to education, clean drinking water and sanitation, food security, disaster risk reduction and resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental impact reduction, social inclusion and gender equality;

18. *Also calls for* the provision of access to sustainable energy for all, ensuring that no one is left behind, including those living in humanitarian settings;

19. *Welcomes* the expansion of renewable energy capacity additions, which are now greater than those of other energy power sources, as well as the net positive job contribution of renewables to the energy sector;

[13] Resolution 69/313, annex.

20. *Recognizes* the slower progress in expanding new and renewable energy use beyond the power sector and the need to accelerate efforts in industry and in particular, in transport, in the context of climate change, and calls for greater efforts and attention to those sectors, including through policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels in order to scale up new and renewable energy technologies that can reduce negative environmental impacts, especially in the near term;

21. *Also recognizes* that current global progress in decreasing energy intensity falls well below the pace necessary to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030;

22. *Encourages* the adoption of building performance codes and standards, the uptake of renewable energy, energy efficiency labelling, the retrofitting of existing buildings, and public procurement policies on energy, among other modalities as appropriate, as well as the prioritization of smart grid systems, district energy systems and community energy plans to improve synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency;

23. *Calls for* support for national efforts to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, including subnational and local efforts, taking advantage of their direct control, where applicable, of local infrastructure and codes to foster uptake in end-use sectors, such as residential, commercial and industrial buildings, industry, transport, waste and sanitation;

24. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations development system and other relevant stakeholders to use an integrated resource planning and management approach in their energy strategies, which considers energy choices in the context of linked sectors, inter alia, water, air quality and food, taking into account national circumstances;

25. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, working with the United Nations development system, to continue efforts to promote the mobilization of stable and predictable financial resources and technical assistance for sustainable energy, and to enhance the effectiveness, coordination and the full utilization of international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and requests the Secretary-General to make concrete proposals on the strengthening of inter-agency coordination, including through existing arrangements, in his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

26. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

27. *Recognizes* that the global energy dialogue remains highly fragmented, decides to consider intergovernmental options, taking into account the mandates of existing organizations, for coordinating efforts to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy at the global level, in an effective and inclusive manner, and for facilitating the effective follow-up to and periodic review of the implementation of Goal 7 and its interlinkages, and in this regard requests the

Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive proposal, including for strengthening institutional support on energy issues, in his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the activities carried out to mark the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All and related activities within the United Nations system for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

29. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities around the world;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all".